

Healthy Kansas Minute Radio Interview – World TB Day is March 24

Joe: This is the Healthy Kansas Minute. I'm Joe Blubaugh, and with me is Phil Griffin, director of the Tuberculosis Program with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

March 24th is World Tuberculosis Day, designed to build public awareness about the disease. What are the symptoms of tuberculosis and how is it spread?

Phil: Tuberculosis, commonly referred to as TB, can be spread through the air when a person with an active form of the disease coughs or sneezes.

Symptoms include a bad cough lasting longer than two weeks, chest pains, fever and weight loss. Tuberculosis can lie dormant long before symptoms become apparent, and it can be treated and cured with prescribed antibiotics.

Joe: So is tuberculosis still a public health issue?

Phil: Absolutely. While tuberculosis rates in Kansas and the U.S. are very low, the disease is still a significant health threat around the world claiming the lives of more than 1.6 million people each year.

Joe: Thank you, Phil. To learn more about tuberculosis, please visit www.kdheks.gov. This has been the Healthy Kansas Minute!